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Thermal Station

37. *Q.*—Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to permit industries to have their own thermal station in the City of Madras; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) The Government have received a proposal sponsored by a group of industrialists to set up a thermal power station in the private sector near Madras to meet their own requirements. The proposal has the support of this Government.

(*b*) The Government of India who were addressed in the matter are not in favour of the proposal. However, it is proposed to address them again to reconsider their decision.

Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, was there any proposal from the district of Coimbatore for establishing such power stations in the private sector? What happened to that proposal?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : There was no official proposal to that effect.

Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, some time before there was a proposal from the mill-owners of Coimbatore to have their own thermal stations. What happened to that proposal? Will the Government take it up and ask the mill-owners to have their own thermal stations so that the others may have the supply from the public sector?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : I presume there was an idea like that, but no proposal. The only proposal the Government had was from the group of industrialists at Ennore, and it is in respect thereof we have taken steps.

Match Factory

38. *Q.*—Dr. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any factory was started for the manufacture of matches at Perambur in 1956 in the Public Sector;

(*b*) if, so whether it is still functioning; and

(*c*) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) to (*c*) : The Government Handmade Match Factory at Perambur which was started in September 1956 had to be closed down with effect from 30th June 1961 as it continued to sustain loss due to the non-availability of labour at the rates offered in the locality to work the factory to its full capacity.

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SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : May I know, Sir, who are the people responsible for starting that factory at that place?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Madras Government including the Industries Department. The point about this is that this is an unemployment relief scheme. We wanted to give employment to those who remained unemployed at a comparatively low rate of wage—12 annas per day. Since the industry prospered in that area, labour was not available at 12 annas per day. Therefore, we had to close it.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Was this factory at any time worked at any profit?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It could never work at a profit because at no time did we get the full complement of workers necessary.

Vivekananda Rock, Kanyakumari

39. *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN AND VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a dispute has arisen over the right of ownership of Vivekananda Rock, Kanyakumari, between the District Devasthanam Department and the Local Catholics; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) A dispute arose between the Kanyakumari Devaswom Board and the Catholics of the Kanyakumari District over the erection of a cross on the Vivekananda Rock.

(*b*) The authorities of Kanyakumari temple used to have oil lamps lighted on this rock on Tirukarthikai day of every year. The rock has been held as a sacred place by the Hindus. In April 1962, a cross was found planted on this rock. On the night of 30th September 1962, it was found that the cross was removed by persons unknown. Suitable preventive action has been taken by the Revenue and Police authorities.

வித்துவான் டி. முத்துகண்ணப்பன் : ஐயா, இந்த விவேகானந்தர் நூற்றாண்டு விழாவினை முன்னிட்டு அந்தப் பாறையில் அவருடைய சிலையை வைப்பதற்கு எதாவது திட்டம் இருக்கிறதா ?

கனம் திரு. எம். பக்தவத்சலம் : அந்தப் பாறையின் மீது விவேகானந்தர் உருவச்சிலையை வைப்பதாக ஒரு கமிட்டியார் அனுமதி கேட்டார்கள். ஆனால் பாறையின்மீது வைக்க வேண்டாம், பாறையின் இயற்கை அழகு அதனால் பாதிக்கப்படும், வேறு இடத்தில் வைப்பதாக இருந்தால் வையுங்கள் என்று